

MINUTES

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006 AT 6:00 P.M. IN PROGRAM ROOM 2B OF THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 303 EAST KIRKWOOD AVE., BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Roll Call

Members Present: Susan Brackney, Christine Glaser, Cairril Mills, Darryl Neher, Catherine Stafford, Toby Strout, John West

Staff Present: Danise Alano, Asst. Director of Economic Development
Mike Steinhoff, Intern, Office of the Mayor – BCOS

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

Meeting called to order by Darryl Neher at 6:07 after a quorum attendance was achieved. Darryl Neher moved that minutes from the April meeting be approved and received unanimous approval. Motion was made by Catherine Stafford to rescind the approval of minutes, having not received them prior to the meeting. The motion to rescind was seconded by John West and the approval of the April minutes was rescinded unanimously. The approval of the April minutes was then tabled until the June meeting.

Public Comment

Paul Schneller will be submitting a list of potential sustainability indicators compiled by his class at IU upon completion. Mr. Schneller also mentioned the fact that Indiana University has denied funding for the Council for Environmental Stewardship, a student and faculty group operating at IU. Attendance by BCOS members was encouraged at a meeting with University officials to discuss the future of Indiana University with regard to environmental issues. An unknown member of the public expressed confusion with an indicators document found on the website, and asked that some terms be clarified.

Announcements

Danise Alano announced that there will be a public comment on the new Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District on May 23, at 5:30 in Showers City Hall.

Committee Reports

1. Indicators: Draft list of indicators has been submitted for comment by the public and the Commission. The list was compiled based on the results of the public input sessions. There will be a public meeting to discuss the draft list on Tuesday, June 6th; location TBA. Email comments and suggestions will be accepted in the meantime through sustain@bloomington.in.gov. A vote on the final indicator list is proposed for the June 13th Commission meeting. Question by John West on whether it is assumed that there is data available for the draft list. Answer, no, and we will be determining the feasibility of each indicator in tandem with the comment period.

2. Education: The first education forum which included the Sustainability 101 presentation and panel discussion was a success with 25-30 members of the public in attendance. John West commented that it was well presented and a good way to introduce the issue of sustainability, but could have used more local examples. However the Q & A session was not as good with personal agendas dominating what was intended to be a discussion. Summary from the public was split between being too radical or not radical enough. Future forum events should have an emphasis on what individuals can do. Also care should be taken to not advocate for or denigrate any community member or business by representatives of the Commission at public events. The next forum will be on the subject of Climate Change and will be co-sponsored with the Environmental Commission with and HT editorial written by Isabel Piedmont (chair of the EC) for publicity. The forum will feature a presentation by EC interns Eric Roberts and Mike Steinhoff, Rob Norris from Duke Energy will be speaking about energy efficiency programs that they provide, and there will be film clips.
3. Initiatives: The application for community initiatives seeking the support of the Commission is now available on the Commission's website. More outreach is needed to get the word out. The deadline is June 2.
4. Partnerships and Resources: This committee is proposed for facilitating strategic partnerships, and is not intended for fund raising. This item will be tabled for the next meeting when more members are present for the discussion.

John West is officially recognized for his due diligence in attending all of the events put on by various committees thus far. Noting that mandatory attendance by Commission members to all events would be unreasonable, clarification of expectations is proposed for the next meeting.

Staff Report

Proposed "green" features of the new Utility Services building were distributed to the Commission. Team Green has had its first meeting with the focus on finding ways that each department can implement the "U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement". Each member is also compiling a wish list of things that they would like to see The City do.

Relationship building is still needed between the Commission and others that would help with the indicators process such as the Environmental Commission, United Way, BDEC etc. Must be balanced with the "3 E's"

Motion for adjournment by Darryl Neher and seconded by John West.
Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.